



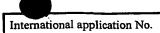


## PCT Rec'd PCT/PTO 2 0 JAN 2005

### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 97 063/K	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notific Preliminary	eation of Transmittal of International Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)		
International application No.	International filing date (day/	month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)		
PCT/EP2003/004899 10 May 2003 (10.05.20			25 July 2002 (25.07.2002)		
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C01B 17/04, B01D 53/86					
Applicant	THYSSENKRUPP ENC	OKE GMBI	I		
This international preliminary examand is transmitted to the applicant a	nination report has been prepare	ed by this Intern	national Preliminary Examining Authority		
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	f sheets, include	ling this cover	sheet.		
amended and are the basis f	nied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets for this report and/or sheets cont e Administrative Instructions un	taining rectific	ion, claims and/or drawings which have been ations made before this Authority (see Rule		
These annexes consist of a	total of 2 sheets.	•			
3. This report contains indications re	lating to the following items:	•			
[ Basis of the report					
II Priority					
Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability			step and industrial applicability		
IV Lack of unity of invention					
V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement			inventive step or industrial applicability;		
VI Certain documents cited					
VII Certain defects in the international application					
VIII Certain observations on the international application					
Date of submission of the demand	Da	te of completion	n of this report		
		-	November 2004 (17.11.2004)		
14 February 2004 (14	.02.2004)		10.0MD01 200-1 (17.11.200 1)		
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/I	3P Au	Authorized officer			
Facsimile No.	Te	Telephone No.			



### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

PCT/EP2003/004899

pages	I. Basis o	of the re	port		
the description:  pages	1. With 1	regard to	the elements of the international application:*	1	
pages		the inter	mational application as originally filed		
the claims: pages	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	the desc	ription:	·.	
pages	,	pages	1-7	, as originally filed	
the claims: pages		pages		, filed with the demand	
the claims: pages		pages	, filed with the letter of	<u> </u>	
pages	$\square$	the clai			
pages				, as originally filed	
pages   1-6   , filed with the letter of   29 October 2004 (29.10.2004)			, as amended (together	with any statement under Article 19	
the drawings: pages				, filed with the demand	
the drawings:  pages				29 October 2004 (29.10.2004)	
pages	$\square$	مسلم ملد	uin sa		
pages				, as originally filed	
the sequence listing part of the description:  pages		-			
the sequence listing part of the description:  pages		• -	filed with the letter of		
pages	_	• -			
pages		the seque	• •		
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in whe the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 at or 55.3).  3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international regiment in the international application in written form.  filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in international application as filed has been furnished.  The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing been furnished.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:  the description, pages		•		, as originally filed	
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beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**			the drawings, sheets/fig		
	5. [-	This beyon	report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, and the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**	since they have been considered to go	
* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 7 and 70.17).	in	this rep	ort as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they ao	vitation under Article 14 are referred to not contain amendments (Rule 70.16	
** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.	** An	y replace	ement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and an	unexed to this report.	

NO

v.	Reasoned statement under Article 3 citations and explanations supporting	5(2) with regard to novelty, ng such statement	inventive step or industrial app	licability;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-6	YES
		Claims		NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-6	YES
		Claims		NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-6	YES

2. Citations and explanations

Λ

Reference is made to the following document:

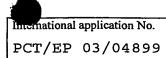
Claims

D1: US-A-5 628 977 (HEISEL MICHAEL ET AL) 13 May 1997 (1997-05-13)

The present application meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) because the subject matter of claims 1 to 6 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)) and involves an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1. Said document discloses a method for treating H<sub>2</sub>S-containing exhaust gases in a Claus plant (cf. figure 2 and column 6, lines 35 to 45), the gas being fed into a Claus boiler (12), sulphur and condensation (17) being separated off, the process gas being supplied to a single reaction furnace having a catalyst (23) and a working temperature of between 170 and 220 °C, the process gas leaving the reaction furnace then being cooled (25) and elementary sulphur being separated off by condensation (26). After precipitation of the condensed sulphur, the process gas is supplied to a post-combustion stage, washed (C) and fed back into the Claus boiler (12).

#### INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



The subject matter of claim 1 **differs** from the known method in that the  $H_2S$ -containing gas (coke oven gas) that is to be treated in the Claus plant is washed and regenerated <u>first</u>, and in that the process gas leaving the reaction oven is fed back into the gas washing stage upstream of the Claus boiler.

Returning the process gas that leaves the reaction oven with a residue of hydrogen sulphide to the gas washing stage upstream of the Claus boiler ensures that post-combustion of the process gas, as in D1, is not required (step B in figure 1) and means that the Claus plant can be simple in design, because the process gas can contain a residue of unreacted hydrogen sulphide, which is then captured in the gas washing stage.

Claims 2 to 6 are dependent on claim 1 and likewise meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(1).

# VERTRAG UBER DIE INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT AUF DEM GEBIET DES PATENTWESEN

**PCT** 

REC'D 1.9 NOV 2004

### INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT

PCT

(Artikel-36 und Regel 70 PCT)

Rec'd PCT/PTS 2 0 JAN 2005

	nzeich 63/yf		Anmelders oder Anwalts	WEITERES VORG	EHEN siehe Mitteilung vorläufigen Prü	über die Übersendung des internationalen fungsberichts (Formblatt PCT/IPEA/416)
Internationales Aktenzeichen Internationales Anmer PCT/EP 03/04899 10.05/2003				edatum <i>(Tag/Monat/Jahr)</i>	Prioritätsdatum (TagMonatJahr) 25.07.2002	
	nationa B17/		entklassifikation (IPK) oder	natiónale Klassifikation u	nd IPK	,
Anme						
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	Dies	e Anla	ngen umfassen insgesar	mt 2 Blätter.		
3.	_		richt enthält Angaben zu	•		
	 		Grundlage des Besche Priorität	eids		
	Ш		7	Gutachtens über Neul	neit. erfinderische Tätigk	keit und gewerbliche Anwendbarkeit
	IV		Mangelnde Einheitlichl		,	general general numerical article
	V Begründete Feststellung nach Regel 66.2 a)ii) hinsichtlich der Neuheit, der erfinderischen Tätigkeit und der gewerblichen Anwendbarkeit; Unterlagen und Erklärungen zur Stützung dieser Feststellung					
	VI					
VII □ Bestimmte Mängel der internationalen Anmeldung VIII □ Bestimmte Bemerkungen zur Internationalen Anmeldung						
	VIII	<b>u</b>	Bestimmte Bemerkung	en zur Internationalen	Anmeldung	
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	<u>)</u>	Euro D-10 Tel.	ppäisches Patentamt - Gits 0958 Berlin +49 30 25901 - 0 : +49 30 25901 - 840	schiner Str. 103	Gruber, M Tel. +49 30 25901-336	The same of the sa



### INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen

PCT/EP 03/04899

1.	Grundlage	des	Reri	chte
	Mi ullulauc	ucs	Den	LILLO

 Hinsichtlich der Bestandteile der internationalen Anmeldung (Ersatzblätter, die dem Anmeldeamt auf eine Aufforderung nach Artikel 14 hin vorgelegt wurden, gelten im Rahmen dieses Berichts als "ursprünglich eingereicht" und sind ihm nicht beigefügt, weil sie keine Änderungen enthalten (Regeln 70.16 und 70.17)):

	Bes	schreibung, Seiten	
	1-7		in der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung
	An	sprüche, Nr.	en e
	1-6		eingegangen am 30.10.2004 mit Schreiben vom 29.10.2004
	Zei	chnungen, Blätter	
	1/2-	2/2	in der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung
2.	ale	internationale Anmel	e: Alle vorstehend genannten Bestandteile standen der Behörde in der Sprache, in der Idung eingereicht worden ist, zur Verfügung oder wurden in dieser eingereicht, sofern ts anderes angegeben ist.
	Die eing	Bestandteile stande gereicht; dabei hande	n der Behörde in der Sprache: zur Verfügung bzw. wurden in dieser Sprache elt es sich um:
		die Sprache der Üb (nach Regel 23.1(b)	ersetzung, die für die Zwecke der internationalen Recherche eingereicht worden ist ).
		die Veröffentlichung	ssprache der internationalen Anmeldung (nach Regel 48.3(b)).
		die Sprache der Üb	ersetzung, die für die Zwecke der internationalen vorläufigen Prüfung eingereicht egel 55.2 und/oder 55.3).
3.	Hin: inte	sichtlich der in der in rnationale vorläufige	ternationalen Anmeldung offenbarten <b>Nucleotid- und/oder Aminosäuresequenz</b> ist die Prüfung auf der Grundlage des Sequenzprotokolls durchgeführt worden, das:
		in der internationale	n Anmeldung in schriftlicher Form enthalten ist.
		zusammen mit der i	nternationalen Anmeldung in computerlesbarer Form eingereicht worden ist.
		bei der Behörde nach	chträglich in schriftlicher Form eingereicht worden ist.
		bei der Behörde nach	chträglich in computerlesbarer Form eingereicht worden ist.
•		Die Erklärung, daß offenbarungsgehalt	das nachträglich eingereichte schriftliche Sequenzprotokoll nicht über den der internationalen Anmeldung im Anmeldezeitpunkt hinausgeht, wurde vorgelegt.
		Die Erklärung, daß e Sequenzprotokoll er	die in computerlesbarer Form erfassten Informationen dem schriftlichen ntsprechen, wurde vorgelegt.
4.	Auf	grund der Änderunge	en sind folgende Unterlagen fortgefallen:
		Beschreibung,	Seiten:
		Ansprüche,	Nr.:
		Zeichnungen,	Blatt:
			•

### INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen

PCT/EP 03/04899

	Dieser Bericht ist ohne Berücksichtigung (von einigen) der Ände angegebenen Gründen nach Auffassung der Behörde über den eingereichten Fassung hinausgehen (Regel 70.2(c)).	rungen erstellt worden, da diese aus den Offenbarungsgehalt in der ursprünglich
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(Auf Ersatzblätter, die solche Änderungen enthalten, ist unter Punkt 1 hinzuweisen; sie sind diesem Bericht beizufügen.)

- 6. Etwaige zusätzliche Bemerkungen:
- V. Begründete Feststellung nach Artikel 35(2) hinsichtlich der Neuheit, der erfinderischen Tätigkeit und der gewerblichen Anwendbarkeit; Unterlagen und Erklärungen zur Stützung dieser Feststellung
- 1. Feststellung

Neuheit (N)

Ja: Ansprüche 1-6

Nein: Ansprüche

Erfinderische Tätigkeit (IS)

Ja: Ansprüche 1-6

Nein: Ansprüche

Gewerbliche Anwendbarkeit (IA)

Ja: Ansprüche: 1-6

Nein: Ansprüche:

2. Unterlagen und Erklärungen:

siehe Beiblatt

### INTERNATIONALER VORLÄUFIGER PRÜFUNGSBERICHT - BEIBLATT

#### Zu Punkt V

Begründete Feststellung hinsichtlich der Neuheit, der erfinderischen Tätigkeit und der gewerblichen Anwendbarkeit; Unterlagen und Erklärungen zur Stützung dieser Feststellung

Es wird auf das folgende Dokument verwiesen:

D1: US-A-5 628 977 (HEISEL MICHAEL ET AL) 13. Mai 1997 (1997-05-13)

Die vorliegende Anmeldung erfüllt die Erfordernisse des Artikels 33(1) PCT, weil der Gegenstand der Ansprüche 1 bis 6 neu ist (Artikel 33(2) PCT) und auf einer erfinderischen Tätigkeit im Sinne von Artikel 33(3) beruht.

Das Dokument D1 wird als nächstliegender Stand der Technik gegenüber dem Gegenstand des Anspruchs 1 angesehen. Es offenbart ein Verfahren zur Behandlung von H<sub>2</sub>S-haltigen Abgasen in einer Claus-Anlage (vgl. Abb. 2 und Spalte 6, Zeilen 35 bis 45), wobei das Gas in einen Claus-Kessel (12) geführt wird, danach Schwefel durch Kondensation (17) abgetrennt wird, das Prozessgas einem einzigen Reaktionsofen mit Katalysator (23) zugeführt wird, wobei dessen Arbeitstemperatur zwischen 170 und 220°C liegt, das den Reaktionsofen verlassende Prozessgas abgekühlt (25) und elementarer Schwefel durch Kondensation abgetrennt wird (26). Nach Abscheidung des kondensierten Schwefels wird das Prozessgas einer Nachverbrennung (27) zugeführt, gewaschen (C) und in den Claus-Kessel (12) zurückgeführt.

Der Gegenstand des Anspruchs 1 unterscheidet sich von dem bekannten Verfahren dadurch, dass das in der Claus-Anlage zu behandelnde H<sub>2</sub>S-haltige Gas (Koksofengas) vorher gewaschen und regeneriert wird, und dass das den Reaktionsofen verlassende Prozessgas in die Gaswäsche vor dem Clauskessel zurückgeführt wird.

Die Rückführung des den Reaktionsofen verlassenden Prozessgases mit einem Restgehalt an Schwefelwasserstoff in die Gaswäsche vor dem Clauskessel sorgt dafür, dass eine Nachverbrennung des Prozessgases wie in D1 (Schritt B in Abb. 1) nicht erforderlich ist, und dass die Clausanlage einfach ausgelegt werden kann, weil ein Restgehalt an nicht umgesetzten Schwefelwasserstoff im Prozessgas vorhanden sein darf, der dann in der Gaswäsche aufgefangen wird.

Die Ansprüche 2 bis 6 sind von Anspruch 1 abhängig und erfüllen ebenfalls die Erfordemisse des Artikels 33(1) PCT.

EPO-DG1

3 0. 10. 2004

andrejewski honke & sozien, patentanwälte in essen



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Patentanmeldung PCT/EP 03/04899 ThyssenKrupp EnCoke GmbH 29. Oktober 2004 97 0637MJ\*Bo

#### Patentansprüche:

1. Verfahren zur Abtrennung von Schwefelwasserstoff aus Koksofengas mit nachfolgender Gewinnung von elementarem Schwefel in einer Claus-Anlage, bei dem der Schwefelwasserstoff durch Gaswäsche mit einer Absorptionsflüssigkeit aus dem Koksofengas entfernt wird, die beladene Absorptionsflüssigkeit regeneriert wird und dabei in konzentrierter Form anfallender Schwefelwasserstoff der Claus-Anlage zugeführt wird,

wobei der Schwefelwasserstoff in einem Claus-Kessel der Claus-Anlage mit Luftsauerstoff unter Bildung von elementarem Schwefel umgesetzt wird.

wobei das den Claus-Kessel verlassende Prozessgas in einem Abhitzekessel auf eine zur Kondensation des Schwefels erforderliche Temperatur abgekühlt wird, nach Abscheidung des Schwefels erwärmt und einem Reaktionsofen der Claus-Anlage zugeführt wird, in welchem Schwefelverbindungen an einem Katalysator in elementaren Schwefel umgesetzt werden, und

wobei das den Reaktionsofen verlassende Prozessgas auf eine zur Kondensation des Schwefels erforderliche Temperatur abgekühlt sowie der kondensierte Schwefel abgeschieden wird,

d a d u r c h g e k e n n z e i c h n e t , dass die Claus-Anlage nur mit einem einzigen Reaktionsofen betrieben und in diesem eine Arbeitstemperatur von weniger als 250 °C eingestellt wird und dass das den Reaktionsofen verlassende Prozessgas nach Abscheidung des kondensierten Schwefels mit



einem im Reaktionsofen nicht umgesetzten Restgehalt an Schwefelwasserstoff in das zu reinigende Koksofengas vor der Gaswäsche zurückgeführt wird.

- Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der
   Reaktionsofen in einem Temperaturbereich zwischen 200 °C und 230 °C betrieben wird.
- Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass als Claus-Kessel ein feuerfest ausgekleideter Kessel in liegender Ausführung verwendet wird, der eine Brennkammer und einen horizontal anschließenden, beidseitig von gasdurchlässigen Gittersteinen begrenzten Katalysatorraum mit einer Katalysatorschüttung aufweist.
- 4. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass der Abhitzekessel ein erstes Rohrbündel aus Wärmetauscherrohren aufweist, die von dem aus dem Claus-Kessel austretenden Prozessgas durchströmt werden, dass der Abhitzekessel ein zweites Rohrbündel aus Wärmetauscherrohrer aufweist, die von dem aus dem Reaktionsofen austretendem Prozessgas durchströmt werden und dass die Rohrbündel in einem gemeinsamen Dampferzeugerraum angeordnet sind, in dem niedergespannter Dampf erzeugt wird.
  - 5. Verfahren nach einem Ansprüche 1 bis 4, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass elementarer Schwefel flüssig aus dem Abhitzekessel abgezogen wird.
  - 6. Verfahren nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 5, dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass aus dem heißen Prozessgas, welches den Claus-Kessel verlässt, ein Teilstrom abgezweigt und dem Prozessstrom, der dem Reaktionsofen zugeführt wird, zur Erwärmung zugemischt wird.

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